

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 have been cancelled and claims 23-45 have been added. Claims 23-45 are now pending in the application. The basis for the new claims may be found in the written description, claims and drawings of the application as originally filed. Thus no new matter has been added.

SUMMARY OF THE INTERVIEW WITH EXAMINER KIM

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for his Interview with Patent Agent James M. McPherson on October 8, 2003. In that Interview, the Examiner agreed that the following features in combination with previously amended claim 1 would overcome the prior art of record and would be allowable pending an additional search:

- i) an oil pan comprising a layer having both sealing and structural characteristics;
- ii) an oil pan comprising one or more integrally formed clips that engage the engine; and
- iii) an oil pan comprising a cure on demand adhesive.

CONCLUSIONS

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience. Should the Examiner have any question or wish to further discuss this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at edobrusin@patentco.com or (248) 593-9900.

Applicants' amendments to the claims are intended to clarify aspects of components in the claims and are not believed or intended to give up any range of equivalency that Applicants are otherwise entitled to. By amending the application, the Applicants do not concede that the patent coverage available to them would not extend as far as the original claims.

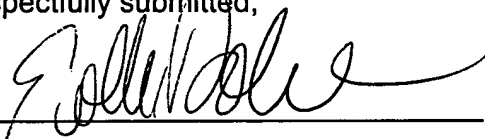
Further, by the present amendment, it does not follow that the amended claims have become so perfect in their description that no one could devise an

equivalent. After amendment, as before, limitations in the ability to describe the present invention in language in the patent claims naturally prevent the Applicants from capturing every nuance of the invention or describing with complete precision the range of its novelty or every possible equivalent. See, Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 62 USPQ2d 1705 (2002). Accordingly, the foregoing amendments are made specifically in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicants would otherwise be entitled.

If for some reason Applicant has not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge our Deposit Account No. 04-1512 for any fee which may be due.

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Respectfully submitted,



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